

WORKERS OF THE
WORLD UNITE

THE TOLLER

FORMERLY THE
OHIO SOCIALIST

Official Organ of the Communist Labor Party of Ohio.

NO. 107

Published
at Cleveland

CLEVELAND O., FRIDAY, FEB. 20th, 1920.

Address all mail to
3207 Clark Ave., Cleveland, O.

\$1.00 A YEAR

The Power Of The Press

— By Eugene V. Debs. —

The power of the press is sadly underestimated in the socialist movement. The ruling class make no such mistake. They are keenly alive to the power of the press in moulding public sentiment and in shaping affairs in accordance with their interests. The capitalist papers do not suffer for the want of support and never die of starvation. They are fed fat and ungrudgingly by the class in power and in return serve that class with all their power.

Not so with the press of the working class. With scarcely an exception the papers and periodicals published in the interest of labor eke out a precarious existence. Ninety-five per cent of them line the highway of the past with their skeletons. They lingered for a brief while and then gave up the ghost, falling victims to the chronic labor-paper malady, starvation.

Of course not all papers claiming to be labor papers are fit to exist. Many of them are fakes and run by political grafters. These often thrive in their blackmail and graft while an honest paper is allowed to die for the want of support.

Working men and women ought to have intelligence enough by this time to discriminate between an honest labor paper and a grafting sheet and they ought to be loyal enough to the working class to give their support to the paper that uses its influence to mould sentiment in favor of their cause and fights their industrial and political battles.

It is when the strike comes that the working class suffer most keenly the lack of a powerful press that reaches the people. They are always at a fearful disadvantage on this account. The capitalists get in a thousand licks to their one, not only because they can get their case before the people in its most favorable light and keep it there, but because they can put the case of the workers in the most unfavorable light and keep it there.

If the working people had a press the slugging methods of corporations in a strike and the activities of their strike-busting gunners would not only be impossible but unthinkable.

The working class can expect nothing from the press of the capitalist class but misrepresentation and injustice in the struggle for its rights. The working class must build up a powerful press of its own and this vital fact it cannot realize too soon.

Thousands of workers subscribe to capitalist papers without contributing a penny to their own and this is one of the reasons why the working class is still in slavery and will remain so until it rises in its might and asserts and develops its power to achieve its emancipation.

Soviet System will Free Woman

By The Federated Press.

PARIS — Socialization of housekeeping is the only thing that will really emancipate woman, declares Nikolai Lenin, head of the Russian soviet government, in a pamphlet on The Great Initiative written for the study of the Russian workers.

"In one year, Russia did more for the freedom of women than had been even attempted in 10 years in other countries," he said. "All the humiliating laws prejudicial to the rights of women have been abolished; for example, those placing obstacles in the way of divorce, or the repugnant formalities in the search for the paternity of 'illegitimate' children. These laws are in force in all civilized states, to the shame of the bourgeoisie and of capitalism.

"We have a right to be proud of our accomplishments in this country. But in proportion as we realize the bases of capitalist laws and institutions we will arrive at a clear vision of the edifice we are to construct.

"We haven't begun building yet.

"Woman is still, in spite of every thing, a domestic slave. The emancipating laws have done nothing, for there still remain all the little household tasks which chain her to the kitchen, to the nursery, and make of her unproductive thankless activity a chain of miniature torments both oppressive and stupefying.

"A real emancipation of women, a real Communism, will exist only when the proletariat takes the reins and organizes a war against domestic slavery. In other words, when society shall be entirely reconstructed, with a view to a general socialization of housekeeping.

LENINE, THE MAN AND HIS WORK

by Albert Rhys Williams

— \$1.50 —

Address — The Toller.

DEBS: HIS LIFE AND LETTERS

by David Karschner

— \$1.50 —

Address — The Toller.

RUSSIA IN 1919

by Arthur Ransome

— \$1.50 —

Address — The Toller.



You say the Ballot is sacred? Then why is not that seat occupied? Answer me!

Foreman Fumes - Would Make America American.

The following typical tirade frothed from the lips of a leader of the American Legion lately, according to the Chicago Daily News:

Col. Milton J. Foreman, state commander of the American Legion, who led the 122nd field artillery (old 1st Illinois cavalry) in the Argonne, was in a fighting frame of mind today. He had just finished reading in a morning newspaper that a delegate of the Painters' Union, Local No. 275, at a meeting of the Chicago Federation of Labor, announced that steps have been taken to weed out from the union all members of the American Legion.

"Such legion members are tools of the capitalist system," the unionist is reported to have said. "I urge all you union delegates to weed them out." There was applause, but no action was taken.

"The American Legion," said Col. Foreman, "has just two purposes for existence. We men who saw service are joined together for brotherhood. Second, we are organized to serve America. The American Legion is pro-American, nothing else, sir. It is not an agent of propaganda for the 'capitalists,' or for the unions. The business of the American Legion is to hammer home the philosophy and practice of Americanism, to Americanize this country from coast to coast, and to make every dweller within this land a 100 per cent American. That's the job of the American Legion."

A sane, honest-minded man would naturally suppose that the manner in which the masses of people in America supported the government during our foreign war by toil, tears and blood proves that America is pretty well "Americanized" already! This rant about making the American people American is either idiocy or hypocrisy. They are "American." They believe the gospel of freedom which was preached before and during the war. The main difference between them and some over-boasting "patriots" is that they believe it yet.

Their profession of loyalty to liberty was put on as a camouflage to cover a plan of plutocratic plunder and military tyranny at home. And these real people of America will decide what true "Americanism" is without asking the advice or consent of bigoted, bitter, self-appointed guardians of public opinion.

"Miserable creatures who are yipping and snapping at the heels of Uncle Sam have either got to become Americans — 100 per cent, too! — or they've got to pack up and get out. We don't want them in this country. They're not satisfied, apparently, with America; we are not satisfied to have them stop here. The best thing is for them to get out — quick."

Any one who is real "satisfied" with conditions in America today is self-evidently a grafter or an ignoramus. Col. Foreman appears to be as unfamiliar with the conditions from which the American people suffer now as he was with the cannon which "himself" of the 122nd used in France.

"Sonny, the American Legion is going to make this republic American, all wool and a yard wide or we'll die fighting. We learned, we legionaries, how to fight fairly well over there. You can't make that too strong. We men who went overseas found out what a blessed place America is. We love this land more than ever, now that we are back; it's worth fighting for. If we must, we'll fight."

If the dear old Col. would take time to read a little upon the spirit manifested on many occasions by Americans he might wisely conclude that they are not the kind of people that can be bluffed by kaisers, colonels, ambitious sub officers, or their little tinny capitalist gods. And if Col. Foreman did not see enough fighting in France, and insists upon war at home in the manner of supreme insolence, arrogance and ignorance revealed in the unhappy outbreak here quoted from, we are very much afraid — and we say it with deep sorrow — that he and his kind are likely to see fighting enough to satisfy them all! He must not forget that the "World War Veterans" and their allied organizations are more numerous than the reactionary Legion and that they have millions of sympathizers. They stand for real democracy.

By the way, does the Col. intend to delay his threatened "fight" until those he opposes organize an army and then go out to meet them on the field of battle, or does he mean merely to "fight" with hot air, or is he encouraging his Legion to use the outlaw methods of mob murder? His talk is dangerous, inflammatory.

The mob method might be imitated by a large mob of outraged common

people. No sane "American" will encourage mob action. He who does is an anarchist of the first grade.

SHALL "TERROR" RULE AMERICA?

"I have no fight, mark you, with the American Federation of Labor. I am confident that 99 per cent of the federation's personnel is just as heartily pro-American as any other group of patriots. There were many thousands, you know, who left their union jobs to serve the country in the army and navy. But the American Legion will not tolerate the few malcontents — they are just natural born trouble makers — who refuse to march to the tune of Yankee Doodle. The Legion's going to make those few malcontents become Americans — or they'll be kicked out of the country."

What a brave(!) chivalrous(!) generous(!) American(!) spirit is here manifested in the name of "patriotism"! Our factory magnates and money lords enticed millions of people from foreign lands on the promise of large wages, happy conditions, and a haven of rest from political and military tyranny — every one of these alluring features being greatly exaggerated in the lying circulars distributed by big business in every country now, after they are here, and have become dissatisfied because they have been deceived, are we to curse them and forcibly deport them? If they do not like the mad rule of profiteers and grafters, if they criticize the government and demand the America make good her far-flung professions of justice and liberty, they must not be argued with, educated and convinced (of they might get the better of the argument!) but they must be "kicked out of the country!"

This is the cheapest and most cowardly mock heroism and false patriotism that could possibly be staged. And the pity of it is that such folly is more dangerous to the peace of the country than all the "reds" that might be found. Such talk is not indulged in by time-serving politicians and their supporters because they fear any harm to America from the "reds"; it is for the purpose of intimidating the reformers and misleading the masses; but the present day reformers can no more be intimidated than could Washington, Jefferson, or Lincoln, and the people are looking for new leaders with social vision, not

Continued on page 4th.

Stand Up And Be Counted!

So many comrades are stepping forward to the front ranks of literature distributors and Toller subscription hustlers that we are daily astonished at the growing number and the vim with which they attack the work of educating the workers. Truly it is a sight to make every social revolutionist rejoice, for don't you know, the "reds" are supposed to be buried deep, deep, deep beneath the heel of reactionary capitalism — but they are not — not by a, well by whole lot!

If you would read the many, many letters, we receive from every part of this big country telling us that whatever others were doing, THEY were on the job and would stay on till the worker's rule is established, and then to see the proof in checks and money orders for literature and Toller subscription cards — well, you'd sure believe that a lot of "reds" hadn't turned pink yet. You sure would.

And we have decided that if there are so many live wires distributed so widely over the country, there must be many more who have not yet taken a hand in the greatest work that any one can do, the work of educating the worker in his own economic interests. So we extend an invitation to every one of you to join NOW this big campaign for subscriptions for The Toller and a distribution of the literature we advertise. You cannot do more nor better work in the Movement than these two things. Therefore, we urge you to give them your best efforts. If you are so situated, that these are impossible for you, then there is still a way for you to help. The dimes and dollars which you can give will aid greatly in carrying on the work. If you can't work in the Movement, then let your dollars work for you.

We ask every reader to resolve to do a real comrade's share in this work. Take a stand now. Stand up on your feet and be counted!

America and what America Needs

SOME OF AMERICA'S NEEDS ARE DISCUSSED BY PROMINENT MEN IN ADDRESSES IN TWO CITIES.

MORE EDUCATION LESS DEPORTATION IS AMERICA'S PRIMAL NEED, SAYS FORMER JUVENILE COURT JUDGE.

Charging that America is neglecting the most vital and fundamental problem of reconstruction, Fred D. Bale, former juvenile court judge of Columbus Feb. 11th, at Cleveland, related personal experiences with boy and girl victims "of a wrong conception of the privileges and obligations of society."

Orphanages he characterized as "monuments to the selfishness of America," and "fashionable and fadish social service work," he said was in keeping with a "governmental conception of American needs that appropriates \$7,500,000 in one year for cattle, hogs and crops and \$29,000 for the welfare of our boys and girls, the manhood and womanhood of the next generation."

"But then," said Mr. Bale, "hogs, cattle and crops can be sold for dollars. Last year this country spent five times as much on automobiles as for all and every kind of education. Are we placing the best things first?"

"Do we realize that we are damaging the hearts, souls and ideals of the next generation by measuring the success of today by the dollars a man can accumulate? The only test of a man's success is the service he has rendered his fellow men."

"How many of our churches do you think would shut their doors in the face of Christ if he returned to day and associated with the same types of people he consorted with in his day? Until we remove the fences of preference for creed, race or color, we do not know the A B C of Christianity or that democracy we mouth so much about."

"The 800,000 boys and girls in America who never go to school are potential dynamite, for from them we shall draw the future anarchists and criminals."

"It is time we laid more stress on education and less on deportation. Eighty per cent of the people brought before the criminal courts are under 18. The number of defectives last year outnumbered the defectives of ten years ago by 25 per cent."

Mr. Bale warned against "camouflaged interests," which he said were lobbying for compulsory universal military training.

"Having done our part in smashing militarism abroad, this is a mighty poor time to plant the seeds of militarism in the American mind," he said. "We do not need compulsory universal military training nearly as much as we need compulsory universal physical training."

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DICTIONARYSHIP OF THE WORKERS WILL SOLVE AMERICA'S PROBLEMS, SAYS RABBI MAGNES.

A large crowd attended a meeting called at the Coliseum at Chicago Feb. 11th, at which Rabbi Judah Magnes, president of the American Jewish Congress, gave a free speech in America.

On the speaker's platform were the leaders of every radical organization in the city. Prominent among the speakers was Rabbi Judah Magnes of New York, a son in law of a prominent banker.

"Old America Gone."

"The old and glorious America made its first utterance to the world in the Declaration of Independence," declared Rabbi Magnes. "It maintained the right of the people to alter or abolish existing governments and to institute new ones."

"But it has become treacherous to give utterance to such thoughts in the America of today. We are told that America has had its revolution, and that further fundamental changes are not necessary and not to be permitted."

"We answer that fundamental changes are needed in the world today fully as much as when the Declaration of Independence was written. For example, political dictatorship must be taken out of the hands of the minority, of the privileged few, and the political power must be placed in the hands of the great masses of the people."

"End Economic Oligarchy." "Further, economic dictatorship must be taken out of the hands of the small oligarchy of big business men and their satellites, lawyers, teachers and clergymen and the power put in the hands of those to whom rightfully it belongs — the masses who work with hand and brain."

"But it is being made a crime to mention these things. We wish to discuss this question, but they say we may not. We wish the American workers to understand, as the British and Italian and German and Russian workers now understand, that economic power can and must be used to achieve political ends. But they make this sedition and treason."

"There are, doubtless, individuals who believe in force and violence, and a few have committed bomb outrages. Why does not the department of justice employ its time to better advantage and hunt these down?"

"Let 'Em Talk It Out."

"But where is the evidence implicating organized groups in open advocacy of or secret plotting for the use of force and violence? Were there such evidence, it would have become public long since."

"Let us grant that this or that group openly advocates in speech or writing the overthrow of the government by force or violence. Let them advocate it — as long as no overt acts are committed."